

CITY OF JERSEY CITY

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Mayor Healy to Host Annual Block Parties with Goal of “Bringing Government to the People” ‘Tapestry of Nations’ Art Workshop to be held for Jersey City children to express their backgrounds and culture through art

JERSEY CITY – Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy, the **Municipal Council** and the **Division of Cultural Affairs**, will host Jersey City’s Annual Neighborhood Block Parties during the month of May, and this year the focus of the block parties is to “Bring Government to the People.”

"The Neighborhood Block Parties provide an opportunity for neighbors to catch up with longtime friends and get acquainted with new ones", said **Mayor Healy**. "This is just one way that we can further strengthen our communities. Representatives from city agencies will be there providing information and services."

Held in each of the city’s six wards, the Block Parties, which are sponsored by the Office of the Mayor and the Department of Health & Human Services, Division of Cultural Affairs, will feature music, games and artwork for children and city services for adults.

City Agencies scheduled to participate in this year’s Block Parties include the following: Division of Cultural Affairs, Fire Department, Police Department, Public Works, Incinerator Authority, Mayor’s Action Bureau, Public Library, Parking Authority, and the Recreation Department.

This year’s block parties will also feature an art component in an effort to expose all kids in all neighborhoods to art in open space, Cultural Affairs recruited local artist James Pustorino, to conduct the “Pictures of Peace,” a large paper mosaic, as part of the ‘Tapestry of Nations’ Art Workshop. The workshops will be held for children between the ages of eight and 13, although younger children will be allowed to participate with parental supervision.

James Pustrino will instruct the children on the diverse nature of Jersey City, highlighting Jersey City’s diversity theme, ‘A Tapestry of Nations’ – where people of all walks of life are woven together to form the great fabric that is Jersey City.

Art supplies will be on hand for the youth, who will then have the freedom to express themselves and their culture on paper.

The children's artwork, which is diverse and representative of all corners of the city, will then be molded into one tapestry that will be displayed in City Hall during the month of October, Arts & Humanities Month. Residents and participants will be invited to return to see the unique Jersey City Tapestry. This exercise is intended to weave together the diversity of all into one creative expression, reflecting one City, one tapestry.

In addition to all of the activities, the Mayor's Block Parties will feature Anthony "Dancing Tony" Susco who will be keeping everyone musically entertained. "Dancing Tony," has been a DJ since 1986 performing at several events and social functions.

In remembrance of Police Officer Robert Nguyen's birthday, which is on May 13th, there will be flower ceremony in his honor at the Ward A, Columbia Park, Block Party. Police Officer Robert Nguyen, who has served the Jersey City Police Department for six years, had met an untimely death while on duty on Sunday, December 25, 2005.

The schedule of this year's Block Parties, which are held from 5:30 to 8:00 p.m., is the following:

**May 6, Ward A, Columbia Park
May 13, Ward C, Pershing Field
May 15, Ward D, Leonard Gordon Park
May 22, Ward F, Arlington Park
May 27, Ward E Hamilton Park
May 29, Ward B, Lincoln Park**

For more information on the Block Parties, contact the **Division of Cultural Affairs at 201-547-6921.**

All media inquiries should be directed to Jennifer Morrill, Press Secretary to Mayor Jerramiah T. Healy at 201-547-4836 or 201-376-0699.///

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